

Applicants : John M. Lohman and Steven R. Douglass
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Remarks:

The amendments and remarks presented herein are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action dated March 22, 2007, the period for response being extended via the attached petition and fee for a one month extension of time.

Claims 2-10, 14-26 and 28-31 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 11-13 and 27 have been canceled herein without prejudice and claims 2, 6, 9, 10, 14, 15, 28, 30 and 31 have been amended as set forth above. The amendments are fully supported in the specification and drawings as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

ALLOWED AND ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

Claims 17-26 are allowed.

Claims 2-5, 10, 14 and 30 were indicated as being directed toward allowable subject matter and as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have amended claims 2, 10, 14 and 30 to be in independent form, such that claims 2-5, 10, 14 and 30 are now in condition for allowance. Applicants have also amended dependent claims 6, 9, 15, 28 and 31 to be dependent on allowable and now independent claims 2, 14 and 30 such that claims 2-10, 14-16 and 28-31 are now in condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 6-9, 11-13, 15, 16, 27-29 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lyman, Jr., U.S. Patent No. 4,571,895.

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Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under §102(b). However, in order to expedite prosecution and allowance of the claims, and without acquiescing in the rejection in any way, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 11-13 and 27 without prejudice, so that the subject matter of these claims may be pursued in a continuation application in the future. Applicants have also amended claims 6, 9, 15, 28 and 31 to be dependent on the allowable and now independent claims 1, 14 and 30, such that claims 2-10, 14-16 and 28-31 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-10, 14-26 and 28-31 remain pending in the application. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-10, 14-16 and 28-31 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly and respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn & Burkhart, LLP

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